

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-17 (cancelled)

18. (new) A cationic liquid starchy composition having:

- a dry matter of between 10 and 50%,
- a viscosity, determined according to a T test, of greater than 200 mPa·s and at most equal to 1000 mPa·s,
- a total nitrogen level at least equal to 0.6% and at most equal to 1.4%, these percentages being expressed by dry weight with respect to the dry weight of the composition,
- a pH of between 3.5 and less than 9.

19. (new) The cationic liquid starchy composition as claimed in claim 18, having a pH of between 3.5 and 8.5.

20. (new) The cationic liquid starchy composition as claimed in claim 18, having a viscosity, determined according to the T test, at least equal to 250 mPa·s and at most equal to 950 mPa·s

21. (new) The cationic liquid starchy composition as claimed in claim 20, having a viscosity, determined according to the T test, at least equal to 275 mPa·s and at most equal to 930 mPa·s.

22. (new) The cationic liquid starchy composition as claimed in claim 18, having a total nitrogen level at least equal to 0.7% and at most equal to 1.3%.

23. (new) The cationic liquid starchy composition as claimed in claim 18, having a pI value of between 3.5 and 7.5.
24. (new) The cationic liquid starchy composition as claimed in claim 23, having a pH value of between 4 and 7.
25. (new) The cationic liquid starchy composition as claimed in claim 18, comprising at least one polyol,
26. (new) The cationic liquid starchy composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein the at least one polyol is a saccharide.
27. (new) The cationic liquid starchy composition as claimed in claim 18, having a temperature of less than 60°C.
28. (new) The cationic liquid starchy composition as claimed in claim 27, having a temperature at most equal to 50°C.
29. (new) The cationic liquid starchy composition as claimed in claim 28 having a temperature of between 10 and 40°C.
30. (new) An additive for paper manufacture, board manufacture or treatment of process water which may or may not result from paper manufacture or board manufacture, consisting of or comprising a cationic liquid starchy composition as claimed in claim 18.
31. (new) The Additive as claimed in claim 30, intended to be used in the wet-end of papermaking, for reduction of troublesome substances present in water circuits and/or retained on equipment for processes related or not related to paper manufacture, for the preparation of sizing agent compositions for the internal or external treatment of

paper or board, for the preparation of compositions for the creping, surface treatment or coating of paper or board, or for the preparation of compositions comprising optical brightening agents, fillers, pigments, aluminum salts, colloidal silica, dyes and/or synthetic polymers.

32. (new) The additive as claimed in claim 31, intended to be used for the preparation of a sizing agent composition comprising a product chosen from the group consisting of alkenylsuccinic acids and derivatives, in particular their salts and anhydrides, alkylketene dimers and derivatives, rosin and derivatives, aldehyde alkyl acetals, alkyl isocyanates, synthetic (co)polymers and any mixture of at least any two of said products.

33. (new) The additive as claimed in claim 32, intended to be used for the preparation of a sizing agent composition comprising an alkenylsuccinic anhydride (ASA)

34. (new) Method of preparing an additive as claimed in claim 30, wherein the cationic liquid starchy composition is diluted so that its dry matter is lowered to a value of between 0.5 and 9%,

35. (new) Method of preparing an additive as claimed in claim 34, wherein the cationic liquid starchy composition is diluted so that its dry matter is lowered to a value of between 1 and 7%.

36. (new) The additive as claimed in claim 30, intended to be brought into contact with a fibrous composition exhibiting a content of calcium ions at least equal to 200 mg/l.

37. (new) The additive as claimed in claim 36, intended to be brought into contact with a fibrous composition exhibiting a content of calcium ions of between 250 and 1000 mg/l.

38. (new) The additive as claimed in claim 30, intended to be used for the manufacture of tissue paper.

39. (new) The additive as claimed in claim 30, intended to be used for the manufacture of surface-treated or coated paper.

40. (new) The additive as claimed in claim 30, intended to be used for the manufacture of corrugating paper.

41. (new) The additive as claimed in claim 30, intended to be used for the reduction of troublesome substances present in paper manufacturing water circuits.